

LENT AND FASHIONS

Not at All Demure Because
They Look at the Spring.

SKIRTS AS THEY WILL BE WORN

The Warm Weather Waists and Its
Many Complications—Scene at
a Reception.

When my brother's letter came from
Chastanoga this morning and told me
that Comfort had a new calf and that
the clover was coming up fresh and
green all over the lawn, it somehow
made it seem to me far more appro-
priate, though Comfort's calf would
shiver in this latitude and the clover is
too wise to show its ears, to talk about
thin things than I had hoped to find it.
So I preferred a special request to a
spring of arbutus to keep me in counten-
ance, and, meeting with no decided re-



TWO SPRING IDEAS.

fusal, betook myself with my small but
sweet companion to the best dress-
maker I am not afraid of in the city,
and said to her, modestly: "Tell me all
you know!"

"In the beginning," began she, obedi-
ently. "The Lord created the—"
"Oh, you needn't go back to that," I
interrupted. "It's only fashions I'm
after, not fir leaves."

"Fashions?" she repeated; "there are
no fashions, only furbelows, and mostly
follow-me-lads."

"Look!" and she brought out various
flat things pinned around with sheets.
"Here's an evening dress, a street dress,
a house dress and a tea gown, and every
one has a bunch of streamers fastened
at the back of the neck and reaching to
the floor. They're famous to play horse
with."

"If you want any serious information
about fashions be advised that," and the
little dressmaker drew herself up
straight and looked grave and wise.
"most of my imported models come
with princess backs and corselet
fronts; they have Watteau skirts with
triple box plaits behind, or one will
have a Russian skirt which is left
longer than it ought to be—'like
every skirt made'—I ejaculated—and
turned over at the bottom," she pro-
ceeded, frowning grim upon me, "in a
queer puff, like the top of a bag."

"There is only one other model that
stands any chance in the competition
with these two, and that is the double
skirt, its two components both straight
and long and usually of different colors.
Two is not always the limit. I have
seen three skirts on extreme models, or
in one case even four."

"So we are to count our wealth by
our petticoats, like the Dutch fisher
maiden?"

"Be more respectful or I leave you to
your ignorance. The pretty summer
silk and muslin frocks have inch wide
ribbons sewn upon the skirts, stripping
them gayly up and down all round.
Near the foot each ribbon is knotted in-
to a bow which holds some connection,
not distinctly useful but more or less
ornamental, with the flounce which is
the inevitable skirt finish."

"Who is taking liberties now?"

"Oh, that's different; a dressmaker is
privileged to have opinions of the fash-
ions, but a rank outsider must listen to
the oracle and be still."

"Let me see; the bell skirt still goes.
Between you and me and the basting



WATERED SILK AND RIBBONS.

cotton it's a very ugly skirt, and all sorts
of devices are being brought in to mod-
ify it.

"It is made quite scant and lined with
silk. I had two frocks come up in a lot
from the custom house yesterday which
had, one a line of jet and silver gimp
and the other a narrow contrasting rib-
bon run down each seam from the waist
to the foot. Maybe you think that's
pretty; I trust at least two people will
be found to think so, and probably
there will, for the notion is quite the
motion on the other side of the water,
but my own taste finds it altogether
tawdry."

"To come to waists. The round bod-
ice with pointed giraffe is the stock
pattern, the standard, you might say.
Three dresses are made with it for one
that ventures on any innovation. And
no innovation is needed, for when you
have added a light sleeve that looks
like a long waisted glove, till it gets to
the elbow and then drops with precipi-
tation under something loose and cape-
like that falls with deep frills from the
shoulder, and have further added a
Pierrot collar which forms that full ruf-
fle about the neck, and to these two

have annexed, if even yet you have not
enough of furbelows, coquilles—no,
let's be Yankee and say cascades—of
lace down the front, the general result
is as picturesque as could be desired.

"Blouses will be worn with all the
cotton stuffs, and one of the most com-
mon and hence one of the most de-
sirable finishes for a gingham or batiste
blouse is a bright silk or chiffon flou
shaped like a three-cornered handker-
chief and knotted about the throat
loosely in an open V."

"If a woman has courage enough for
something bigger and bolder than this,
she can try a silk scarf of the sort you
see now making gay and glad the lace
counters, a foot wide and three or four
feet long. This is meant to be worn in
the biggest and puffiest bow you can
tie, and is always gorgeous and once in
a great while magnificently becom-
ing."

It was somewhere in the neighbor-
hood of this point that the business in-
stinct deserted us and we wandered off
in rhapsodies about a huge tawny and
white St. Bernard dog that pushed open
the door and entered confident of wel-
come.

Forsaking theory as having missed the
final words of the theorizer, there were
some noticeable toilets yesterday at a
great Lenten afternoon reception. One,
of which there is a picture, had a bell
skirt of smooth cinnamon brown cloth,
with a long, straight brocade coat in
silvery gray flowered with cinnamon,
coming within a foot or two of the
ground, plaited in the back and finished
with a pointed velvet giraffe; at the
throat was a double ruff of velvet and
the sleeves had velvet cuffs and loose
baggy cloth tops. Feather trimming
edged the bodice and the top of the
coat, and the general effect was ex-
tremely smart and not unsuited to the
tall chestnut-haired woman who wore
it, though on your honor you could not
call it graceful, especially in conjunc-
tion with the mannish brown beaver
hat like a chimney pot cut short and
trimmed with feathers.

A fly-away girl, of the sort you want
to fly away with, wore a fly-away
gown of a chameleon silk, shading from
blue into green and rose as the light
struck it and brought out its changing
possibilities. This shifting and whim-



A SPRING WALKING GOWN.

sical and altogether pretty but unde-
pendable dress had a deep, cape-like
and very full lace frill at the throat,
coming well down over the shoulder. It
fastened in the neck at the back with iri-
descent ribbons whose loops and stream-
ers touched the floor. The round, full
bodice was kept under government at
the waist by dark green velvet ribbons,
so arranged as to simulate a pointed
pennant waist; the bottom of the skirt
was finished with puffs of the silk be-
tween velvet bands. When I had looked
at the frock long enough it seemed to
me that the girl had chosen it because
she loved the pigeon's neck and be-
cause there were glowing and paling
lights in her hair.

A dark girl who poured tea and didn't
want to—of that I was sure—wore an
apple green silk frock, which is shown
like the shifting and shading and be-
ribboned one in the sketch given. It
had a curious vest and front drapery
which makes it worthy of description,
set in like an apron. The tone of this
was lighter than the body of the frock,
but was kept down to the decorum of
mid-Lent by profuse black lace garni-
ture.

There was a striking dress of blue
watered silk with lace corselet and vel-
vet ribbons, but more forcibly illustra-
tive, perhaps, of the fashion tendencies
of the season was a rich creamy brown
silk dress, heavily corded, glossy and
falling in soft yet stately folds. Its
scant, sweeping breadth had no garni-
ture of any description, but the long
brownish red silk coat, which was made
as if it would cover it but stopped in
season, had stately Directoire re-
vers of crimson velvet and pointed
with velvet caps let into the
sleeves. The tall individual who had it
on—can anybody tell me whether it is
in quick and direct response to the
pressing necessity of harmony with
their environments that women, now
that they wear tall gowns, are getting
most uncommonly tall?—folded her
hands behind her back, carried her head
as if she had just left the gymnasium
master and appeared more beautifully
oblivious of the masses of lace and chil-
don that billowed from her neck to
bosom than could be managed com-
fortably by the majority of reception
guests.

The green of the millinery is start-
ling. It is hard to use the eyes to green
straw.

Going Out of Business.

T. J. Lucas will sell his entire stock
of boots and shoes at cost, sale to com-
mence on Monday, 21st. Come at 8
o'clock to avoid the rush. No. 88
Monroe street.



THE BOSTON STORE!

SPLENDID PROGRESS!

We are very much gratified to note the rapid progress made during the past week on our store front. The ungainly skeleton of the past few weeks is now beginning to show the outline of a form, that in a few days more will stand out in bold prominence, an ornament to the city, a business center for the people of a large section of Michigan. We are very much indebted to the public for the patience shown us during the roughest part of the work and for the splendid patronage, and here let us assure all that the public's comfort and convenience shall be carefully considered and provided for in this beautiful es-
tablishment. In another week the contractors have promised us the use of our new windows. For this week we shall be without display windows and shall make

GREAT BARGAIN OFFERINGS

From every prominent department of our house to induce a continuance of the great trade of the past few weeks.

Dress Goods Displays!

New Crepons,
New Bedford Cordings,
New Alligator Fabrics,
New Camelette Fabrics,
New Plisse Cloths,
New Gloria Cloths,
New Combination Costume Suits,

As the highest fashionable fabrics with a magnificent offering of the staple dress fabrics in the latest ideas of weaves and shades at very low prices during this week.

Silks will Display

China Foulards,
China Brocades,
Fancy Indias,
Novelties, Surahs, Failles, Bengalines, Satins,
and the Standard Dress Silks in the latest shades and blacks. (Special offerings during alterations on store.)

Millinery will Display

The New French Pattern Hats and Bonnets.
The New Ribbons,
New Laces,
New Flowers,
New Crepes,
New Chiffons,
New Ornaments, etc.
This department is well worthy a special visit.

Ladies' Muslin Underwear

We shall offer during this week a splendid line of Ladies', Misses' and Children's Muslin Underwear at specially low prices.

Cloaks! Cloaks!

We are now showing a beautiful line of New Spring Cloaks in the newest ideas of make. We suffer the inconvenience of not being able to display them at present in the windows, but our assortment is most complete and elegant and we have made prices to draw trade during store alterations. (See our prices for this week.)

Special Offerings

From Laces and Embroidery Department!

Spring Shoes!

We are offering a splendid line of New Spring Shoes in Oxford ties and every desirable makes. (Special prices.)

Hosiery!

We shall offer this week specialties and bargains from this department. Our line of Fast Blacks for ladies and children is most complete, with special offerings in Fancies and Silks. This department is worthy of special attention.

Table Linens and Towels

Of all kinds at very low prices during store alterations.

Buttons!

We are showing very pretty novelties in Buttons for spring dresses.

Very New Things!

Dress Trimmings in the latest ideas.
Newest shades of Ribbons.
Novelties in Shopping Bags.
Kid Gloves in the new spring shades.
Black Silk Laces, extraordinary values.
Lace Veilings in new ideas.
New Baby Dresses and Cloaks for spring.

Drapery Department!

We are now showing a large and magnificent assortment of Lace Curtains and Chenille Portieres; also Silk Tissues of the very newest designs at very low prices. (Take elevator, second floor.)

A great assortment of Imported and Domestic Wash Fabrics.
Fine French All Wool Challies a great specialty.

EVERYTHING STRICTLY AS REPRESENTED.

TRANKLA, JAMIESON & CO.

THE BOSTON STORE